

FORM B – BUILDING

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

25-21C

Orleans

EAS.1301

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Town/City: EASTHAM

Place: (*neighborhood or village*): North Eastham/ Nauset

Address: 630 Nauset Road Rear

Historic Name: Sarah and Quincy Adams Shaw House

Uses: Present: Single Family Dwelling House

Original: Single Family Dwelling House

Date of Construction: ca. 1914

Source: Title records, Eastham Tax Commitment records

Style/Form: Colonial Revival

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Unknown

Wall/Trim: Wood shingles/ Wood

Roof: Wood shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Outbuilding at north end of property (Photo 4, pre-1938)

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

Porch roof added over open deck (2014, see Photo 2)

Condition: Good

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: 1.67 acres

Setting: This unusually shaped parcel overlooks Salt Pond Bay. The property is surrounded by Cape Cod National Seashore land. The area around the house is landscaped with expanses of lawn and foundation plantings, and is otherwise left in a natural state with fields, and mature deciduous and coniferous trees.

Photograph



2015 Assessor Photo, looking north

Locus Map



Recorded by: Eric Dray, Preservation Consultant, for

Organization: Eastham Historical Commission

Date (*month / year*): April 2025

INVENTORY FORM B CONTINUATION SHEET

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☐ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

(This house is not visible from Nauset Road; this Description is based on Assessor photos and may not include all features.)

The Sarah and Quincy Adams Shaw House, built in ca. 1914, is a charming, albeit unusual, example of a Colonial Revival-style summer house. The Colonial Revival style began in the late-19th century with a new interest in the country's own architecture of the Colonial-era and early Republic as a source of inspiration. It was a style that remained popular well into the 20th century. This 1 ½-story, side-gable house has a simple but unusually broad footprint. This house shape is reminiscent of Cape Cod houses, and that reference is further reinforced on both side elevations which have centered attic windows flanked by square windows near the roof-wall juncture often found on early Capes.

The elevations are clad in wood shingles with plain cornerboards. The roof is also clad in wood shingles and has three small brick chimneys painted white and black. Both the front and rear roof slopes have very shallow eyebrow dormers with small multi-paned awning windows. Fenestration on the elevations appears to include 6/6 double-hung sash, along with smaller multi-paned, double-hung sash and some fixed and operable windows systems. A screen porch was added in ca. 2014 at the southwest corner of the house.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

Incorporated as Nauset Plantation in 1646, and changed to Eastham in 1651, Eastham territory originally extended south to Pleasant Bay and north beyond Wellfleet Harbor. The early development pattern for what we now know as Eastham was impacted by its absence of deep-water harbor facilities. Relatively fertile soil led to dispersed agricultural settlement, but residential and commercial development was concentrated to the north at Wellfleet Harbor and to the south at Town Cove and Pleasant Bay. When the separate towns of Wellfleet and Orleans were created in the late-18th century, Eastham became and remained one of the least populated towns on the Cape throughout the 19th century.

In the 19th century, Eastham was the agricultural center of the Outer Cape. Crops evolved over time; corn and dairy were surpassed in the early-20th century by asparagus and turnips - two crops well suited for the sandy soil. In 1900, 58% of Eastham's workers were employed as farmers, but by 1930 that number had dwindled to 21%. Summer resort development, including cottage colonies and subdivisions of former farmland that would transform Eastham, had begun in earnest in the 1920s as middle-class access to car ownership increased and Cape roads were improved.

This house was built on land that Warren A. Mayo of Eastham sold in 1913 to Quincy Adams Shaw of Boston.¹ The description of the land referred to a parcel labelled "Warren A. Mayo" on a plan of land owned by Nathan P. Clark (Figure 2).² Shaw would add to this parcel, but the house was built on this portion. His holdings totaled more than 19 acres eventually, before conveying most of the land to the federal government to be part of the Cape Cod National Seashore. This house has an Assessor date of 1914, which may well be accurate. Quincy Adams Shaw is first listed as the owner of a dwelling house, garage and boat house in the 1920 Eastham tax records. However, the Eastham tax records for 1903 to 1919 are not available, so this house may well have been built shortly after he bought the land. A further clue that the house was built in ca. 1914 is that Quincy Adams Shaw had a nervous breakdown in 1915 and was hospitalized for ten years.

¹ Barnstable County Registry of Deeds, Book 326/ Page 4.

² Plan Book 326/ Page 34.

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Quincy Adams Shaw (1869-1960), whose father was a wealthy investor and copper mining executive, married Sarah Pemberton (1870-1945) in Philadelphia in 1896. Quincy was a successful tennis player in college and reached the Challenge Round of the 1889 US Open. He went on to also work in the mining industry. However, as mentioned above, two years after buying this land in 1913, he had a nervous breakdown and would go on to spend 10 years at McLean Hospital in Belmont, MA. Upon his discharge, doctors suggested that he find a hobby to "ease his shattered nerves," the *Cape Cod Voice* reported in 2006. The hobby he chose was designing and building his own golf course in Eastham – the 18-hole Cedar Banks Links golf course. It was laid out between 1925 and 1928 on former asparagus and turnips fields and surrounding marshland owned by Quincy Shaw as well as his neighbors, including Maurice Richardson at 320 Nauset Road Rear (**EAS.**).

As can be seen in a marvelous aerial photo (Photos 3, 4) and map sketch of the course (Figure 2), the golf course was laid out around and very near these summer houses. The 1st tee was located directly in front (south) of Shaw's house and the 18th green was directly north of the house. Cedar Banks Links was not a public course – Shaw built it for himself and his friends. Among invited guests were Francis Ouimet, born to a family of modest means who caddied at The Country Club in Brookline and would go on to win the U.S. Open in that venue in 1913, an event that popularized golf across the country. The most illustrious visitor to Cedar Bank Links was Bobby Jones, considered one of the greatest golfers of all time. He played at Cedar Banks Links in 1931, and shot a one-over-par 73, the best score ever shot there. The course was in operation until the 1940s. Much of the golf course land was sold by Shaw and his neighbors to the Federal government for the Cape Cod National Seashore. The Salt Pond Visitor Center sits atop the 9th hole, and Eastham Town Hall was the site of the 12th hole.

This house was inherited by their son, Quincy Adams Shaw, Jr. who conveyed it to himself and his wife, Marjory B. C. Shaw.³ The house was then conveyed, through trusts, to Austin C. Smith. His wife, Mabel Austin (Cheney) was the sister of Marjory Shaw.

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³ Cert. of Title No. 91182.

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Photo 2. View looking south (2012 Assessor photo).



Photo 3. View looking southwest (2015 Assessor photo).



Photo 3. Aerial view of Cedar Bank Links golf course, looking north. Arrow to 630 Nauset Road Rear added (pre-1938 view, Eastham Historical Society).

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Photo 4. View of house, and outbuilding in its original location, later moved west next to primary driveway (pre-1938 view, Eastham Historical Society).

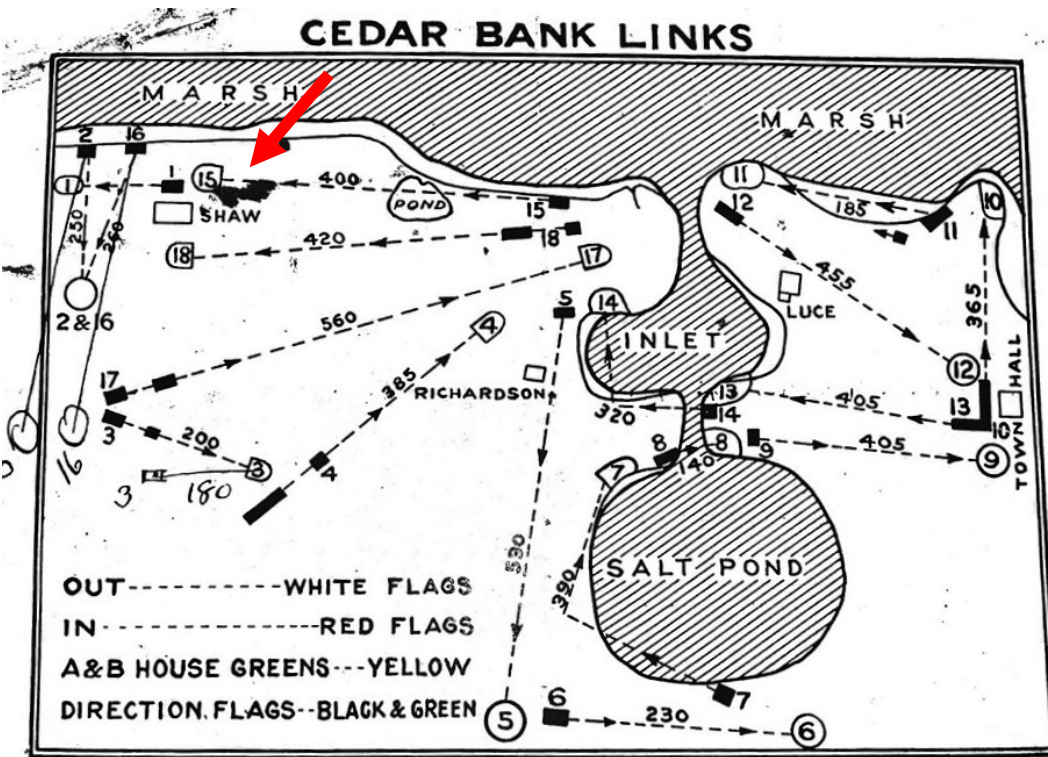


Figure 2. Map of Cedar Banks Links, arrow to 630 Nauset Road Rear added (Eastham Historical Society).